

Konomi Kindergarten

Water Safety Policy

(QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY, QA2, Standard 3)

Rationale

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1 – 4 in Australia. Whilst most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 5cm of water. Other water hazards in relation to child injuries and illnesses are: nappy buckets, toilets, wading pools, spas, bathtubs, fish ponds, fountains, pet drinking bowls, dams, creeks, lakes and beaches.

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences

Policy Statement

Konomi Kindergarten will prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to swimming and wading pools and other water hazards and to comply with Regulation.

Goals

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment.

Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

Children's safety and wellbeing will:

1. Be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention; and
2. Be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking.

Strategies & Practices

The Nominated Supervisor will:

1. Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
2. Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

Educators and staff will:

- ✓ Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities.
- ✓ Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- ✓ Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets are left in play areas or accessible to children.
- ✓ Provide clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers will be securely sealed. At the end of each day, the water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.

Specific Practices

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards and to comply with Regulation, Konomi Kindergarten will:

- Not install a swimming pool on the premises

- Closely supervise children near water at all times on excursion, never leave children alone near any water, supervised by at least one adults if children are using a paddling pool or water trough.
- Safety cover to be used or make inaccessible to children all water containers, e.g. ponds, nappy buckets, buckets left outside in the rain, and water troughs. Empty water troughs, water containers immediately after every use, store to prevent the collection of water, e. g. upright, also check garden after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in holes, containers, and foot washing basins.
- Ensure water troughs are disinfected appropriately
 - Clean out leaves and debris everyday by hosing away surface dirt and scrubbing the inside with disinfectant.
 - Rinse away disinfectant before filling trough.
 - Children with diarrhea, upset stomach, open sores, or nasal infections should not use the trough.
 - All children should wear clean bathers and should go to the toilet before entering the trough, following correct toileting hygiene practices.
 - If a child passes a bowel motion while in the trough, remove all children from the trough immediately, empty the trough and disinfect.
 - Only hot days water play to be planned and provided. Leftover water to be used in the garden by children guided by the educator

Operational Safety

1. Grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with “do not drink” signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking. Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.
2. At Konomi Kindergarten, a thermostatic valves to the bathroom shower has been installed and the temperature of water is adjusted to 43.5oC, tested and maintained by a licenced plumber.
3. Although the temperature of water is adjusted to 43.5oC, any time that a child needs to be washed for any reason, the adult bathroom hot water can be accessible to children after an educator makes sure that the temperature is appropriate.
4. A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water. Any major water activity in the Centre also will be subject to a risk assessment prior to the event.
5. Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw lid that prevents spilling. Preferably hot drinks are to be consumed by adults in the staffroom or somewhere that is out of reach of children
6. Water for pets at the setting must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

Water contamination / Procedures

In the event of an alert regarding the of the Contamination Water Supply, staff will;

1. Boil sufficient water for children to drink. This water will be boiled for 3 minutes (unless otherwise advised) and then cooled before any children drink it.
2. All food will be rinsed in boiled water.
3. All taps will be immobilized to prevent children having access to potentially contaminated water.
4. Warmed hand towels and baby wipes will be provided to children and staff for cleaning hands after toileting or before eating.
5. Hand towels will be washed in the HOT water cycle of the washing machine and disinfected by using appropriate detergent.
6. Notice alerting parents to the contamination of the water will be posted in both Japanese and English on the noticeboards.
7. As soon as the cause for the contamination is established through local authorities, emergency service will be contacted for urgent response.
8. If the cause of contamination, present a threat or risks for the children and staff members, the Emergency Evacuation Procedure is to be followed and families need to be informed to pick up the children from the meeting point (Julian Street Park).

Required Legislations

- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, “168-2-a”

Evaluation

Supervision and access to water within the service is managed effectively by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy

Sources

National Health and Medical Research - www.nhmrc.gov.au

NSW Department of Health - www.health.nsw.gov.au

Health & Safety in Children's Centres 2003

Further resources & information:

- Pool and Water Safety - www.kidsafe.com.au
- Water use and restrictions see - www.sydneywater.com.au

Date policy Reviewed: March 2015

Date for next Review: March 2016/earlier when requires